

THE HAROLD ALFOND® FOUNDATION

MaineHealth

CANCER CARE NETWORK

IN AFFILIATION WITH

DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

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Harold Alfond® Foundation Awards \$10M to Launch MaineHealth Cancer Care Network

Patients in Maine, Mt. Washington Valley will benefit from coordinated care provided by MaineHealth members and affiliates, and by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston

PORTLAND, Maine – Cancer patients in Maine and Mt. Washington Valley now have access to world-class, coordinated cancer treatment thanks to an innovative collaboration between MaineHealth members and affiliate hospitals. The MaineHealth Cancer Care Network, which will deliver comprehensive, patient-centered care and is being launched in part with a \$10 million grant from The Harold Alfond® Foundation, is also affiliating with Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Diagnosing cancer and treating patients with the disease requires a team of experts. Most cancer patients receive a combination of therapies that can include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. These treatments are best performed by specialists, including those with the highest level of training in their field. Not every hospital or private practice has the expertise or technology to deliver all types of care, but by working together, the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network can provide comprehensive cancer treatment services to everyone in our communities.

For patients and their families, this means less time and travel to obtain top cancer care. Most patients will have access to a patient navigator who educates them about the disease, discusses treatment options, and then helps coordinate appointments.

"Our network includes nearly 300 providers across Maine and the Mount Washington Valley," said Scot C. Remick, M.D., chief of oncology for Maine Medical Center and MaineHealth. "Coordinated,

comprehensive care represents best practice in cancer treatment and typically delivers the best clinical and experience outcomes. The generous investment from The Harold Alfond Foundation will make a tremendous difference in the lives of Maine and New Hampshire residents by facilitating personalized, state-of-the-art care that turns more patients into survivors.”

Cancer is a serious public health challenge in Maine, where incidence and mortality rates outpace national averages. Statewide, the most common cancer diagnoses are breast, lung, kidney and prostate. Cancers that account for the highest portion of deaths in Maine are lung, colon, breast and pancreas. Maine’s population health trends, including age, obesity and smoking rates, are all significant factors.

The grant will also support MaineHealth’s continuing efforts in prevention and education.

“Maine Medical Center is delighted to be part of such an innovative initiative that has an incredible opportunity to make a difference in the lives of patients,” said Rich Petersen, President and CEO of Maine Medical Center. “Through the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network we will work together to provide the very best care for every patient we serve.”

MaineHealth Cancer Care Network partners include Franklin Memorial Hospital, LincolnHealth, MaineGeneral Medical Center’s Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, Maine Medical Center, Memorial Hospital, Mid Coast Hospital, Pen Bay Medical Center, Southern Maine Health Care, St. Mary’s Regional Medical Center, Stephens Memorial Hospital, Waldo County General Hospital and the Cancer Care Center of York County.

When patients access the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network for care, they will access the services they need as close to home as possible. Patients can be referred to larger centers for more advanced care, second opinions or clinical trials, and then return to their local communities for follow-up care. The network’s commitment is to coordinate the patient’s journey as they access the services that are most appropriate for them.

Coordinated care models produce positive outcomes for patients. According to the Maine Cancer Foundation, given the gravity and complexity of cancer diagnoses in Maine, reducing the cancer burden cannot be achieved if organizations worked in silos.

For nearly a decade Augusta-based MaineGeneral, an affiliate of MaineHealth, has used a similar coordinated care model through its Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care.

Harold Alfond Foundation Chairman Greg Powell said the new network will build on the success of both MaineGeneral’s Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care and the Maine Medical Center Cancer Institute.

“The Foundation is proud to continue its investment in cancer care and to make this commitment to the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network. By working together, we can achieve transformative change in the lives of so many people who everyday face a disproportionate risk of cancer,” said Powell. “We are especially excited to work with such an outstanding team that is so incredibly focused on helping patients and families.”

The Harold Alfond Foundation grant will be distributed over a five-year period and will cover some of the network's start-up costs such as technology investments and hiring additional providers, patient navigators and program managers.

"Mainers and residents of the Mt. Washington Valley know that the Alfond name means something special. For nearly a decade now The Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care at MaineGeneral Medical Center has been synonymous with high-quality, coordinated care," said Chuck Hays, chief executive of MaineGeneral Medical Center. "We are extremely proud to be part of the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network, which has an opportunity to deliver the right care as close to home as possible for so many people and dramatically improve health outcomes for those diagnosed with cancer."

Through the network's affiliation with Dana-Farber Cancer Institute – designated by the National Cancer Institute as a comprehensive cancer center and widely recognized as one of the world's leading treatment and research centers – patients will have expedited access to Dana-Farber for evaluation and treatment of rare cancers, second opinions and an expanded array of clinical trials in Boston.

"We are very excited about this relationship with MaineHealth, one that we expect will evolve over time," said Eric Winer, M.D., chief strategy officer with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. "We hope to help ensure that people with cancer always have access to the very best care possible."

Learn more about the MaineHealth Cancer Care Network at MaineHealth.org/cancer.

About MaineHealth

MaineHealth is a not-for-profit family of leading high-quality providers and other healthcare organizations working together so their communities are the healthiest in America. Ranked among the nation's top 100 integrated healthcare delivery networks, MaineHealth member organizations include Maine Medical Center, Franklin Community Health Network, LincolnHealth, Maine Behavioral Healthcare, Memorial Hospital, Pen Bay Medical Center, Southern Maine Health Care, Waldo County General Hospital, Western Maine Health, MaineHealth Care at Home, NorDx and Synernet. Affiliates of MaineHealth include MaineGeneral Health, Mid Coast-Parkview Health, New England Rehabilitation Hospital of Portland and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center.

About Maine Medical Center

Maine Medical Center (MMC), recognized as the number-one ranked hospital in Maine by U.S. News and World Report for 2016-2017, is a complete health care resource for the people of Greater Portland and the entire state, as well as northern New England. Incorporated in 1864, MMC is the state's largest medical center, licensed for 637 beds and employing nearly 6,500 people. MMC's unique role as both a community hospital and a referral center requires an unparalleled depth and breadth of services, including an active educational program and a world-class biomedical research center. As a nonprofit institution, Maine Medical Center provides nearly 23 percent of all the charity care delivered in Maine. MMC is a member of the MaineHealth system, a growing family of health care services in northern New England. For more information, visit www.mmc.org.

About MaineGeneral

Based in Augusta, MaineGeneral serves the greater Kennebec Valley as the leading community healthcare system, recognized for clinical excellence, customer satisfaction, financial stability and impact on community health.

About The Harold Alfond® Foundation

The Harold Alfond Foundation furthers the legacy of Harold Alfond by investing in education, healthcare, youth development, and other philanthropic charitable causes that hold the promise of making enduring transformative contributions to the community and state of Maine.

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

One of the world's leading centers of cancer research and treatment, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston is the only center ranked in the top 4 of *U.S. News and World Report's* Best Hospitals for both adult and pediatric cancer care. Dana-Farber sits at the center of a wide range of collaborative efforts to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. Dana-Farber is dedicated to a 50/50 balance between cancer research and care, and much of the Institute's work is dedicated to translating the results of its discovery into new treatments for patients locally and around the world.